

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SP-02 /048 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4001

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0003

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, AR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US/GOA BILATERAL TALKS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8473

1. EMBASSY ASSUMES GOA EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS INFORMED DEPT. THAT GOA DEL IS IN WASHINGTON, HAVING LEFT BUENOS AIRES EVENING JANUARY 3. ACCORDING OUR INFORMATION HERE, DELEGATION INCLUDES DNTAC CHIEF BRIGADIER GONZALEZ, HIS DEPUTY PERUCCHI, ATTORNEY DRA. DONATO AND ARGENTINE AIR FORCE ADVISOR WITTE. (WITTE WAS APPARENTLY LAST MINUTE ADDITION AND WE HOPE HE WILL BE RESTRAINED BY OTHER DEL MEMBERS FROM NATIONALIST/OBSTRUCTIONIST ROLE HE PLAYED IN PAST). AS OF NOON JAN. 3 ACCORDING UNDER SECRETARY BECKMANN, FORMIN WAS NOT PLANNING SEND REP ALTHOUGH OFFICER NAMED HERRERA WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION. CLEMENT SAID TO BE OUT OF PICTURE. BECKMANN TOLD US GOA DEL LEFT B. AIRES WITHOUT APPROVED INSTRUCTIONS AND SIGNED TRAVEL AUTHORIZATIONS, BUT HOPES TO GET APPROVAL OF BOTH ON JANUARY 5.

2. RECENT NEW CONSIDERATION IS THAT SUPPORT FOR GOA DEL HERE MAY BE WEAK. GONZALEZ PRINCIPAL SUPPORTER AS HEAD OF DNTAC, WAS FORMER CHIEF OF ARG. AIR FORCE, GENERAL FAUTARIO, WHO WAS OUSTED DURING RECENT AIR FORCE UPSET. EMBASSY HAS NO IDEA WHETHER GONZALEZ IS LIKELY REMAIN AS HEAD OF DNTAC OR SHORTLY BE REPLACED.

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IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT GOA DEL, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW THEIR

INSTRUCTIONS (REFTEL) AND SHAKY BACKSTOPPING WILL BE IN POSITION REACH MUCH IN WAY OF AGREEMENT.

3. GOA HAS AT LEAST ONE PRACTICAL INCENTIVE FOR BILATERAL TALKS, WHICH IS AEROLINEAS DESIRE TO INTRODUCE BOEING 747 INTO US SERVICE, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BOEING STAND AT THIS MOMENT. IN ANY CASE, AIR FRANCE, LUFTHANSA AND ALITALIA ARE ABOUT TO INTRODUCE WIDE BODIES INTO ARGENTINE SERVICE (WITH CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS) AND IBERIA IS ALREADY OPERATING DC-10 WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS. GOA DEL MAY NOT KNOW WHERE AEROLINEAS WILL BE READY INTRODUCE 747 INTO SERVICE. WITH CURRENT GOA B/P DIFFICULTIES, 747 PURCHASE REPRESENTS MAJOR DECISION.

4. COMMENT: IN CURCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS AS PREVIOUSLY, THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO CONCENTRATE ON LIMITED, PRACTICAL OBJECTIVES. AS WE SEE IT, BRANIFF NINTH FREQUENCY IS PRIME AND MAJOR GOAL, AS WELL AS REACHING UNDERSTANDING ON PROBLEMS REGARDING OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY (PAN AM CHANGE OF GAUGE IN CARACAS AND EXTENSIONS OF B.A. SERVICE TO MONTEVIDEO, ETC.) RECOMMEND US DEL SHOULD TAKE STRAIGHTFORWARD, NON- NONSENSE POSITION SINCE GOA DEL WILL HAVE LITTLE OR NO LEEWAY IN TALKS AND MAY STILL BE SWAYED BY CHAUVINISTIC, THEORETICAL CONCEPTS RATHER THAN BROAD COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATION. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOA BOTH UNDERSTANDS IT NEEDS AGREEMENT WITH US AND HOPES TALKS WILL BE CONSTRUCTIVE.
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